

38. (Twice amended) A method for eliciting responses from members of a broadcast audience comprising:

the broadcasting from each of a plurality of broadcast stations, distant from each other, a set of local programs;

receiving said local programs at a multiplicity of receiving stations by the members of the broadcast audience;

providing said broadcast stations with a sequence of network programs, said network programs including tasks to be performed by the members of the audience;

selecting, at individual ones of said broadcast stations, a network program from said sequence of network programs to be interspersed between the successive local programs or the successive segments of a local program in the set of local programs;

interspersing [a] the selected network program among successive local programs or successive segments of a local program broadcast from an individual one of said broadcast stations;

enabling the members of the audience to enter responses to a task of one of said network programs;

providing apparatus for evaluating a response of [a member] one of the members of the audience;

generating an instructional signal including response criteria for use by said evaluating apparatus in evaluating the responses of audience members to determine the presence of a correct response;

providing a station for selection of a winner among the members of the audience who have entered correct responses; and

communicating identities of the members of the audience who have entered correct responses to said winner-selection station.

39. (Twice amended) A method according to Claim 38 wherein said response criteria have been established prior to entry of the responses by the members of the audience, said evaluating apparatus includes means for altering a mode of evaluation in response to said instructional signal, and the method further comprises a step of employing said instructional signal for activating said altering means of said evaluation [means] apparatus independently of the providing of said sequence of network programs.

Claim 44, lines 8 and 9, change "responses at individual" to --the responses at the individual--.

Claim 45, line 4, change "responses of" to -- the responses of the--.

46. (Amended) A method according to Claim 38 wherein said step of communicating identities of the audience members is accomplished by at least one telephone hub interconnecting a plurality of said receiving stations with said winner-selection station, there being a plurality of evaluating apparatuses with one evaluating apparatus being located at each of said at least one telephone hub[s] for evaluating the responses communicated from individual ones of said receiving stations to said at least one telephone [hub] hubs, and wherein the method includes a step of communicating said instructional signal to each of said at least one telephone hub[s] for use by respective ones of said evaluating [apparatus] apparatuses to accomplish evaluation of audience response at a location remote from said receiving stations.

Claim 47, line 6, change "keying a" to -- keying the--.

48. (Amended) A method according to Claim 38 further

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comprising a step of printing out a hard-copy record of a response of an individual one of the audience [member] members, said evaluating of audience response including a scoring of [a] the response by [an] the individual audience member, the scoring appearing in the hard copy.

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49. (Amended) A method according to Claim 38 wherein said step of interspersing is accomplished by separating successive ones of said local programs or segments of said local programs by [timing] time slots, and inserting [a] the selected network program in one of the time [slot] slots.

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50. (Amended) A method according to Claim 49 further comprising a step of synchronizing the network program[s] of the sequence of network programs with the occurrences of the time slots in [the] a sequence[s] of the local programs of the broadcast stations, thereby allowing for a presentation of [a] the network program concurrently to the audience members receiving broadcast transmissions from numerous ones of said broadcast stations.

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Claim 51, line 2, change "a network" to --the selected network--.

Claim 52, line 2, change "a" to --the--.

Claim 52, line 4, change "a" (both occurrences) to --the--.

Claim 52, line 6, change "local" to --the local--.

Claim 53, line 8, change "responses of" to --the responses of the--.

54. (Twice amended) A method for attracting large audiences to program disseminating stations comprising the steps of:

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disseminating programs[, some of which may differ from others,] concurrently from a plurality of stations wherein individual ones of said programs may differ from other ones of said

programs;

inserting different questions at different times in different ones of said programs, there being the audiences for the programs of said stations;

receiving said questions at different times by members of the audiences;

answering said questions at different times by the members of said audiences;

determining acceptable answers submitted by the members of the audiences;

identifying successful members of the audiences who have answered the questions acceptably;

storing the acceptable answers from identified members of the audiences in a storage means during an interval of time subsequent to a posing of the questions to the members of the audiences; and

based on information stored in said storage means, entering the successful members of the audiences in a sweepstakes or prize event.

55. (Amended) A method for attracting audiences to broadcast stations comprising the steps of:

transmitting from one or more locations a plurality of task sets at relatively short intervals, a task set including a question and accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable answer;

forming a network of a plurality of [TV and/or radio]

broadcast stations from the class of stations consisting of television and radio stations, said broadcast stations concurrently broadcasting [their] individually scheduled programs, said programs being at least partially disparate;

receiving said task sets at said stations;

rebroadcasting, by individual ones of said stations, one or more tasks sets at a time convenient to an individual one of said stations;

providing members of the audiences at their locations means for entering an answer to a task;

providing means operatively connected to said entering means for receiving said response criteria and for comparing an entered answer with the accompanying response criteria;

determining whether an audience member has entered an acceptable answer; and

entering into a sweepstakes or prize event [an] the audience member who has entered [an] the acceptable answer.

56. (Amended) A method for attracting audiences to broadcast stations comprising the steps of:

transmitting from one or more locations a plurality of task sets at relatively short intervals, a task set including a question and accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable answer;

forming a network of a plurality of [TV and/or radio] broadcast stations from the class of stations consisting of television and radio stations, said broadcast stations concurrently

broadcasting [their] individually scheduled programs, said programs being at least partially disparate;

receiving said task sets at said broadcast stations;

rebroadcasting, by an individual one of said broadcast stations, one or more task sets at a time convenient to the individual broadcast station;

providing members of the audience of said one station at [their] the members' locations means for entering an answer to a task;

providing means operatively connected to said entering means for receiving said response criteria and for comparing an entered answer with the accompanying response criteria, so as to determine whether an audience member has entered an acceptable answer; and

acknowledging [an] the audience member who has entered [an] the acceptable answer in a sweepstakes.

57. (Amended) A method for generating very large broadcast audiences comprising the steps of:

providing a first electronic signal transmitting system comprising a network of stations broadcasting programs to the members of the audiences, said stations broadcasting [their] individually scheduled programs, said stations being equipped to receive and retransmit the quiz signals to the members of the audiences;

providing a second electronic signal transmitting system for transmitting quiz signals for a quiz to said stations, [a] the quiz comprising a task, and response criteria accompanying said task defining at least one acceptable response;

formulating at a central location at least one quiz;

transmitting by said second system the at least one quiz to said stations, said stations receiving at least one quiz;

retransmitting by a network station [a] the quiz to members of [its] the audience of the network station;

providing a response unit with response-entering means to the individual members of said audiences, said response unit being capable of receiving and storing response criteria signals, said response unit being capable of evaluating [an] the entered response in accordance with said response criteria and determining [an] the acceptable response;

entering a response to a quiz by [a] the [member] members of said audiences;

evaluating a member's response by the member's response unit to determine [an] the acceptable response;

providing means at [a] the central location for identifying a member having entered [an] the acceptable response;

providing means at said central location for receiving responses and for storing accepted responses by the members of said audiences for a sweepstakes pool;

conveying the accepted responses by identified audience members to said sweepstakes pool;

storing identifications of said identified audience members in said sweepstakes pool;

providing means at [a] the central location for determining at

least one winner from among said identified audience members entered in said sweepstakes pool; and

informing said winner of said determination.

58. (Twice amended) A method for generating large broadcast audiences comprising the steps of:

organizing a plurality of broadcast stations [, including television and/or radio stations,] to create a broadcast network, said broadcast stations being from the class of stations consisting of television and radio stations;

providing at least one central facility for transmitting electronic signals to said broadcast stations;

providing at said broadcast stations means to receive and to rebroadcast the electronic signals received from a central location;

broadcasting by said stations [their] regularly scheduled and disparate programs to members of a remote broadcast audience;

receiving said programs by the members of the remote audience;

formulating a plurality of task sets, a task set comprising signals conveying a task, including a question, [a] the task set including also response criteria defining at least one acceptable response including an answer and instructions for scoring acceptable responses;

providing response units to individual members of said audience, a response unit comprising means for entering a response to [a] the task by an audience member and means for receiving



response criteria signals, said response unit further comprising means for identifying and scoring the acceptable responses by the individual audience members;

providing means for informing a winning audience member of an acceptable scored response;

sequentially transmitting by said at least one [of said] central [facilities] facility signals conveying [a] the plurality of task sets to said broadcast stations;

receiving task set signals at said broadcast stations;

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interrupting the programs of individual ones of said broadcast stations to create a time gap between program segments;

rebroadcasting [a] the task set by an individual one of said broadcast stations during said individual station's time gap;

receiving during a station's time gap, by [an] the audience member, signals rebroadcast by one of said broadcast stations and conveying [a] the task set;

entering the responses to [a] the task by individual ones of said audience members via the response units;

identifying, by said response units, the acceptable responses entered by the individual audience members;

storing the acceptable responses by means of said response units;

entering the acceptable response in a prize event;

informing winning audience members of entrance of [an] the

acceptable response in [a] the prize event.

59. (Twice amended) A method for generating large broadcast audiences comprising the steps of:

providing a first electronic signal transmitting system comprising a network of stations broadcasting programs to members of a remote audience, said [station] stations broadcasting [their] individually scheduled programs;

providing a second electronic signal transmitting [means] system for transmitting a quiz to said network stations, said stations being equipped to receive and to transmit [said] quiz signals of the quiz to the members of the remote audience, [a] the quiz comprising a task and response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;

formulating at a central location at least one quiz;

transmitting the at least one quiz to said network stations;

receiving the at least one quiz at said network [station] stations;

retransmitting [a] the quiz, by said network stations, to the members of said remote audience at points in time determined by individual ones of said network stations, which points in time can vary between the stations;

providing to individual members of said remote audience response units for receiving and for storing response criteria signals, and for entering a response to [a] the quiz by a member of said remote audience, each of said response units evaluating an entered response in accordance with said response criteria, said response units identifying [a] the member of the remote audience

having entered an acceptable response;

entering a response, by a member of the remote audience, to  
[a] the quiz;

evaluating the member's response by a member's response unit;

providing data storage means at [a] the central location;

providing a sweepstakes facility at [a] the central location;

providing a communications link between said response units,  
said storage means and said sweepstakes facility;

conveying identifications of identified audience members to  
said storage means;

conveying the identifications of the identified audience  
members to said sweepstakes facility;

determining at least one sweepstakes winner from among the  
identified audience members; and

informing said winner of a determination.

60. (Twice amended) A method for attracting large broadcast  
audiences to individual stations in a network of stations by  
entering successful respondents to a task in a sweepstakes or prize  
event, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a network composed of a multiplicity of [TV and/or  
radio] broadcast stations concurrently broadcasting scheduled and  
at least partially disparate programs, said broadcast stations being  
from the class of stations consisting of television and radio  
stations, each of the stations of said network broadcasting [its]

a program of said disparate programs to members of its audience;

broadcasting a plurality of task sets from a central location, each of said task sets comprising [a] the task and accompanying response criteria defining an acceptable response to the task;

receiving said task sets at said network stations and selecting, at individual ones of said network stations, a task set for retransmission at a time fitting into the program structure of each of said individual ones of said network stations;

retransmitting via a network station a selected task set;

receiving said selected task set by the members of the audience of [a] the network station;

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providing to each audience member a response unit identified with said audience member, [a] the response unit comprising means for receiving and for storing the response criteria, means for entering a response to [a] the task, means for comparing an entered response to [a] the task to the accompanying response criteria, and means for determining whether an entered response is [an] the acceptable response;

entering a response to [a] the task of said selected task set by [a] the response unit, said entering step being accomplished by a member of the audience of [a] the network station desiring to be a respondent;

determining by [a] the response unit whether a respondent's entered response is [an] the acceptable response;

providing a central sweepstakes or prize event facility;

providing a communications link between said response unit and

said sweepstakes or prize event facility for conveying the identity of [a] the respondent having successfully responded to a task to said sweepstakes or prize event facility; and

entering a successful respondent in [a] the sweepstakes or prize event.

61. (Twice amended) A method for generating a large advertising market, including the combined audiences of a multiplicity of broadcasting stations, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a network composed of a multiplicity of [TV and/or radio] broadcast stations concurrently broadcasting [their] scheduled and at least partially disparate programs having different program structures, said broadcast stations being from the class of stations consisting of television and radio stations;

broadcasting, via individual ones of said stations of said network, [their] respective programs to members of said combined audiences, said network stations broadcasting [advertising and/or promotional] messages interspersed in [their] respective ones of said programs, said message being drawn from the class of broadcast messages comprising advertising and promotional messages;

broadcasting a plurality of task sets from a central location, a task set comprising a task and accompanying response criteria defining an acceptable response to [a] task;

receiving said task sets at said network stations;

selecting, at respective ones of said network stations, at least one task set for retransmission at times fitting into the program structures of the respective ones of said network stations;

retransmitting selected task sets by the respective ones of said network stations;

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receiving an individual one of said at least one task set by each of a plurality of response units located at locations of the members of said audiences, wherein an individual one of said response units comprises means for entering a response to [a] the task, and comparison means for determining whether an entered response is [an] the acceptable response;

entering [a] the response to a task by a member of said combined audiences by use of one of said response units;

determining, at a member's response unit, whether an entered response of [a] the member of said audience is [an] the acceptable response; and

entering a member, who has entered [an] the acceptable response, into a sweepstakes.

[ Claim 62, lines 20 and 21, before "responding" insert --the--.

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63. (Twice amended) A method for conducting a sweepstakes event for audience members of a plurality of stations broadcasting chronologically disparate segments of programs, said method comprising the steps of broadcasting tasks received by stations to [their] stations' audiences, wherein the audience members enter responses and members' responses are compared to response criteria to determine winning members, the improvement comprising the steps of:

selecting, by an individual station, a task from a stream of the tasks successively received at relatively short intervals compared to a program, the tasks being chronologically suitable for insertion into said stations programs;

transmitting a selected task by [a] the station;

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*cond* receiving and responding to [a] the selected task by audience members of said station;

entering the winning members in a sweepstakes; and

determining a sweepstakes winner.

[ Claim 64, line 18, change "an" to --the--.

Claim 64, line 24, change "an" to --the--.

Claim 64, line 27, change "a" to --the-- and after "through" insert --the--.

65. (Amended) A method for conducting a sweepstakes event for audience members of broadcast stations, comprising steps of:

broadcasting, by a plurality of stations, [their] the stations' individual and disparately scheduled program segments;

*cond* supplying to said stations a stream of successive tasks at relatively short intervals as compared to durations of said program segments, each task having an accompanying winning response;

*cond* selecting, at an individual station, from the task stream a task chronologically suitable for insertion into [that] the individual station's program structure for retransmission to the station's audience members;

retransmitting a selected task by a station;

receiving [a] the selected task by an audience member;

responding to [a] the task by [an] the audience member by entering a response in an entering device, the audience member

being provided with a response evaluating means;

transmitting winning responses to the tasks from a central location to the response evaluating means;

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const comparing a member's entered responses with a winning response to determine a member's winning entered response;

entering a winning member in [a] the sweepstakes event; and

randomly determining a sweepstakes winner.

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66. (Twice amended) A method for conducting a sweepstakes for members of the audiences of broadcast stations, comprising the steps of:

broadcasting, by means of a plurality of stations, individual programs from respective ones of the stations;

conveying mechanically or electronically or optically, to said stations, at least one task of a task set to be broadcast to said stations' audiences;

selecting, by an individual one of said stations, at least one point in time fitting into said station's program structure for broadcasting a task;

broadcasting, by said station, to [its] said station's audience the at least one task at a selected time;

receiving said task by the audience members of said station;

providing to individual audience members a response unit comprising response entering means and means for electronically receiving response criteria defining an acceptable response to an



accompanying task, the response unit including a memory for storing the response criteria and evaluation means including means for determining an acceptable response by comparing an entered response to accompanying response criteria, said response unit being operable by an identified respondent;

entering a response by an individual member of the [audience] audiences;

determining [an] the acceptable response by [a] the response unit for a successful respondent;

providing a central storage facility for successful respondents' identifications;

providing a communications link between said response unit and said storage facility;

communicating a successful respondent's identification to said central facility for storing;

entering successful respondents in a sweepstakes or prize event;

determining a winner; and

informing a winning respondent.

67. (Twice amended) A method of conducting a sweepstakes for members of the audiences of broadcast stations, comprising the steps of:

broadcasting, by a plurality of stations, individual programs of respective ones of the stations;

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385

conveying mechanically or electronically or optically to said stations at least one task to be broadcast to said [station's] stations' audiences;

transmitting signals conveying response criteria defining an acceptable response to said at least one task;

selecting, at an individual one of said stations, at least one point in time fitting into said station's program structure for broadcasting a task of said at least one task;

broadcasting, by said station, to [its] said station's audience said at least one task at a selected time;

receiving said task by the members of said [audience] audiences;

entering, by an individual audience member, a response to said task in an entering means;

providing a central response evaluation facility having a memory for storing the response criteria electronically received;

electronically programming said memory by transmitting the response criteria accompanying said at least one task to [an] the evaluation facility;

providing a communications link between said response entering means and said response evaluation facility;

communicating, via said communications link, to said evaluation facility a respondent's response and identification;

determining, at said evaluation facility, a successful respondent by comparing a respondent's entered response to

accompanying response criteria;

entering successful respondents in [a] the sweepstakes;

conducting the sweepstakes by randomly determining a winner;  
and

informing a winning respondent.

68. (Twice amended) A method for conducting a game for members of the audiences of broadcast stations, comprising the steps of:

broadcasting by a plurality of stations individual programs which differ in program content;

conveying to said stations at least one task to be broadcast to said stations' audiences, a task comprising instructional response criteria to determine an acceptable response;

selecting, by respective ones of said stations, at least one point in time fitting into said stations' program structures for broadcasting [a] the task;

broadcasting to the audience of each of said stations [a] the task at a selected time in the course of [the program of] a respective one of programs broadcast by said station;

providing to individual audience members means for receiving [a] the task, a response entering means, means for receiving the instructional response criteria, a memory for storing the response criteria, and an evaluation means having means for determining [an] the acceptable response by comparing an entered response to accompanying response criteria; and

*Clifford* associating an entering means identifiably with an audience member.

69. (Amended) A method for conducting a game comprising the steps of:

broadcasting, by each of a plurality of broadcast stations, a scheduled program, at least some of a plurality of programs broadcast by said plurality of broadcast stations being disparate;

taping a plurality of tasks;

successively transmitting said plurality of taped tasks from a first central facility;

*Clifford* receiving said tasks at each of said broadcast stations;

selecting, at an individual one of said plurality of broadcast stations, a task for retransmission at a convenient time to an audience of said individual one of said broadcast stations;

retransmitting a selected task by said one broadcast station during a program of said individual broadcast station;

receiving a retransmitted task by audience members of said individual broadcast stations;

recording a plurality of response criteria, the response criteria accompanying [a] the task and defining an acceptable response to said task;

providing a second central facility having means for electronically communicating with individual ones of said audience members and for successively playing back said record of response criteria accompanying each task, said second central facility

including means for receiving a response from the individual ones of the members of said audience and for identifying [an] the acceptable response by an audience member meeting the response criteria, said second central facility also including means for identifying [an] the audience member having entered [an] the acceptable response;

entering a response to [a] the task, by [an] the audience member, in an entering means at a location of the audience member, said entering means being operatively connected by said communication means to said second central facility;

receiving, at said second central facility, [a] the response entered by [a] the member of the audience;

evaluating, at said second facility, an entered response in accordance with said response criteria;

identifying, at said second facility, an acceptable entered response; and

identifying, at said second facility, [a] the member of the audience having entered [an] the acceptable response.

70. (Amended) A method for conducting a game comprising the steps of:

broadcasting scheduled programs by individual ones of a plurality of broadcast stations, at least some of said programs being disparate;

recording tasks of a plurality of task sets, a task set including a task, such as a question, and an accompanying response criteria, including an acceptable response;

recording a plurality of response criteria, said response criteria accompanying said tasks;

playing back one of said recorded tasks to said broadcast stations;

selecting, at the individual ones of said plurality of broadcast stations, the tasks for retransmission to the respective audiences of said broadcast stations at convenient times;

retransmitting, via the individual ones of said broadcast stations, selected tasks during the[ir] respective programs of said broadcast stations;

receiving a retransmitted task by members of an audience of an individual one of said broadcast stations;

providing a central facility having means for electronically communicating with individual ones of the members of [an] the audience of said plurality of broadcast stations, and playing back recorded response criteria accompanying [a] the task, said central facility having further means for receiving a response from the individual ones of the members of said audience of said plurality of broadcast stations, said central facility also having means for identifying [an] the acceptable response by comparing said response with the accompanying response criteria and identifying a member of the audience of said plurality of broadcast stations having entered [an] the acceptable response;

entering, by [a] the member of the audience of said plurality of broadcast stations, [a] the response to [a] the task in an entering means located at an individual one of the locations of the members of said audience of said plurality of broadcast stations, said entering means being operatively connected by said communication means to said central facility;

receiving, at said central facility, an entered response of [a] the member of the audience of said plurality of broadcast stations;

identifying, at said central facility, an acceptable entered response; and

informing, via said central facility, [a] the member of said audience of said plurality of broadcast stations having entered [an] acceptable response.

71. (Twice amended) A method for conducting a game comprising the steps of:

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broadcasting [a] scheduled [program] programs[, at each] at respective ones of a plurality of broadcast stations, the programs at at least some of said broadcast stations being disparate;

successively transmitting a plurality of task sets at a transmitting facility, each of said task sets including a task and an accompanying response criteria with an acceptable response;

receiving tasks of said task sets at said broadcast stations;

selecting [a] the task, by each of said plurality of broadcast stations, for retransmission to an audience of each of said broadcast [station] stations at a convenient time;

retransmitting, via each of said broadcast stations, a selected task during a program of each of said broadcast stations;

receiving a transmitted task by members of the audiences of the respective broadcast stations;

providing a central facility having means for electronically

communicating with individual ones of said audience members and receiving the response criteria from said [first central] transmitting facility accompanying [a] the task, said [second] central facility having further means for receiving a response from the individual ones of the members of the audiences of the respective stations and for identifying [an] the acceptable response by an audience member and identifying [an] the audience member having entered [an] the acceptable response;

entering [a] the response by [a] the member of said audience to [a] the task in an entering means at a location of said member, said entering means being operatively connected by said communication means to said [second] central facility;

receiving an audience member's entered response at said [second] central facility;

identifying an acceptable entered response at said [second] central facility; and

identifying, at said [second] central facility, [a] the member having entered [an] the acceptable response.

72. (Twice amended) A method for conducting a game and determining game winners, comprising the steps of:

concurrently transmitting scheduled programs of each of a plurality of first transmitters of stations during a program period;

receiving the scheduled programs of a station, said receiving being accomplished by members of a remote audience tuned to the station;

successively transmitting, by at least one second transmitter,



a plurality of task sets at relatively short intervals, as compared to the duration of a program, during said program period, a task set comprising a task and accompanying response criteria defining an acceptable response thereto;

receiving tasks of said task sets at said stations;

selecting from a plurality of tasks at least one task for retransmission at a time during the program period so as to fit into a chronological sequence of program portions of said station;

retransmitting, via [said] individual ones of said stations, a selected task to the remote audience;

receiving, by the members of the remote audience, a retransmitted task from the station to which [they] the members are tuned;

providing response units at members' locations, a response unit including means for entering a member's response, means for receiving the response criteria and means for comparing such entered response to the accompanying response criteria;

entering, by a member of said audience, a response to a received task in said entering means;

receiving the response criteria by said response units; and

comparing a member's entered response to [a] the task with the accompanying response criteria, so as to determine whether [a] the member's entered response is [an] the acceptable response.

73. (Twice amended) A method for broadcasting and rewarding tasks, comprising:

providing facilities for the broadcast transmission of signals conveying a plurality of programs to members of remote audiences;

formatting program contents and program structures for broadcasting by the operators of said facilities, the formatting of said [program] programs providing for at least one interruption in the broadcasting of said programs, so as to create at least one break in the continuity of each program structure and at least one time interval between program portions;

synchronizing said at least one [interruptions] interruption so that said at least one time [intervals] interval between portions of all station programs [occur] occurs at essentially the same time;

broadcasting said programs interrupted by said synchronized time intervals;

receiving said programs by the members of remote audiences;

providing means for the transmission of signals conveying a task set to the members of said remote audiences;

formatting at least one task set for transmission to the members of said remote audiences wherein [a] the task set comprises signals conveying a task including a question and accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response including an answer to [a] the task;

providing to individual members of said remote audiences response units each of which comprises means for entering a response to [a] the task and means for receiving and storing the response criteria, the response unit further including means for identifying [an] the acceptable response;

broadcasting by said signal transmission means the at least one task set to the members of said remote audiences, wherein the broadcasting of said task set occurs essentially during a time interval separating said program portions;

entering, via respective ones of said response units, a response to [a] the task by individual ones of said audience members;

identifying [an] the acceptable response by each of said response units; and

notifying the audience members who have entered [an] the acceptable response.

[ Claim 74, lines 14 and 18, change "a task" to --the task--.

Claim 74, line 18, before "members" insert --the --.

Claim 74, line 21, before "response" insert --the--.

75. (Twice amended) A method for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the method comprising:

sequentially transmitting, via a transmitter, a plurality of task sets, a task set comprising a first portion having [a] the task and a second portion having the response criteria accompanying the task for defining at least one acceptable response;

broadcasting disparately structured programs, via a plurality of broadcast stations, to the audiences of respective ones of said plurality of broadcast stations;

receiving, at said broadcast stations, said first and said second portions of each of a plurality of tasks;

selecting, at an individual one of said plurality of broadcast stations, one of said plurality of tasks for retransmission of the first portion of a selected task set to the audience of the broadcast station;

transmitting, via [an] the individual one of said broadcast stations, said first portion of the selected task set at a time fitting into a program structure of said individual broadcast station;

receiving, by said audience members, a program and said first portion of said selected task set transmitted by said individual station, said audience members being tuned to said broadcast stations;

providing means for an entering, by individual audience members, of a response to [a] the task;

providing means for an evaluation of an audience member's response, including means for receiving the second portion of the selected task set;

entering [a] the response, via an audience member, to [a] the task; and

evaluating an entered response to determine whether said entered response is an acceptable response.

76. (Twice amended) A method for conducting a game by a plurality of stations broadcasting programs including a task requiring an acceptable response, comprising the steps of:

concurrently broadcasting, via a plurality of broadcast stations, a plurality of disparate programs to members of respective audiences of said broadcast stations during a determined

time period;

dividing individual ones of said programs into two or more program segments;

chronologically separating a broadcasting of at least two of said segments so as to create a break in a continuity in respective ones of said programs;

determining at least one time gap between two of said [discontinuous] segments broadcast by respective ones of said plurality of stations, the occurrence of [said] time gaps at the respective ones of said stations being substantially synchronized;

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broadcasting, via said plurality of broadcast stations to the members of the respective audiences during one of said time gaps, a task set comprising electronic signals conveying [a] the task and response criteria defining at least one acceptable response to said task;

providing response units to individual ones of the members of said respective audiences, each of said response units comprising means for entering a response to [a] the task, means for receiving and for storing the response criteria and means for evaluating a member's response to identify [an] the acceptable response;

entering [a] the response, by a member of each of said respective audiences, to [a] the task via one of said response units;

evaluating, at individual ones of said response units, responses entered by the members of respective ones of said audiences;

providing means for informing the members of respective ones

of said audiences who have entered acceptable responses; and

informing the members of individual ones of said audiences who have entered [a] the acceptable response.

77. (Twice amended) A method for conducting a game for members of an audience and for entering successful members of the audience in a sweepstakes, the method comprising:

formulating a question to be answered by members of a broadcast audience;

formulating response criteria to accompany [a] the question and to define an acceptable answer to said question;

providing the question to a broadcast station;

selecting, at said station, a time slot fitting into a program structure of said station for broadcasting said question to said broadcast audience;

broadcasting said question, via said station, to said broadcast audience at a selected time;

receiving said question by a member of said broadcast audience;

providing answer entering means to the members of said broadcast audience, said entering means being associated with an identified member of said audience;

providing at a communications hub, means for obtaining [an] the acceptable answer to [a] the question by a member of said audience by comparing an entered answer to an accompanying response criteria;

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398

providing said response criteria accompanying [an] the answer to said hub;

entering [an] the answer to [a] the question by a member of said broadcast audience;

providing means for communicating a member's answer and identification to said hub;

communicating a member's entered answer and identification to said hub;

94  
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comparing [an] the entered answer to the accompanying response criteria so as to determine [an] the acceptable answer by an identified successful member;

storing the identifications of successful members of said broadcast audience;

entering the identifications of successful members of said broadcast audience in [a] the sweepstakes;

conducting the sweepstakes; and

informing winning members of a result of the sweepstakes.

78. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

transmitters of a plurality of broadcast stations for broadcasting a plurality of disparate programs;

means for sequentially transmitting a plurality of tasks and

accompanying response criteria defining an acceptable response;

means at individual ones of said broadcast stations for receiving said tasks and said accompanying response criteria;

means at said individual broadcast stations for selecting one of said tasks, and means for storing a selected task and [its] the task's accompanying response criteria;

means at said individual broadcast stations for retransmitting a stored task and the response criteria at a convenient determined time;

C14  
cont  
means at locations of said members of the broadcast audience for receiving a retransmitted task and retransmitted response criteria;

means at locations of individual ones of said members for entering responses to [a] the task; and

means at said members' locations for comparing a response of an individual one of said members to the response criteria to determine whether a member's response is [an] the acceptable response.

79. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a transmitter for sequentially transmitting a plurality of task sets, each of said task sets comprising a first portion providing [a] the task and a second portion providing accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;



a plurality of broadcast stations for receiving said first portion of [a] the task set and for broadcasting disparately structured programs to the members of the audience, wherein an individual one of said plurality of broadcast stations includes means for selecting one of said plurality of task sets for retransmission of the first portion of said task set to the audience members at a time fitting into a program structure of said broadcast station;

means provided to said audience members for receiving the program and the first portion of [a] the task set transmitted by [an] the individual one of said broadcast stations to which the audience members are tuned;

C14  
conf means provided to the audience members for entering a response to [a] the task;

means for receiving the second portion of a transmitted task set for obtaining the response criteria; and

means for evaluating an entered response of an audience member in accordance with the response criteria to determine whether the entered response is an acceptable response.

80. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a transmitter sequentially transmitting a plurality of task sets, each of said task sets comprising a first task portion conveying [a] the task and a second task portion defining at least one acceptable response and scoring instructions;

a plurality of broadcast stations for broadcasting disparately

structured programs to the members of said broadcast audience, said broadcast stations receiving the first and the second portions of said task sets;

wherein individual ones of said broadcast stations include means for selecting one of a plurality of said task sets for retransmission of the first task portion of a selected task set to the members of said broadcast audience;

the individual ones of said broadcast stations retransmitting the first task portion of a selected task set at times fitting into program structures of respective ones of said broadcast stations;

means provided to the members of the broadcast audience for receiving the program and the first task portion transmitted by an individual one of said broadcast stations to which said members are tuned;

means for entering responses by individual audience members to [a] the task; and

means for evaluating and for scoring the responses of the members of said broadcast audience in accordance with said second task portion of a transmitted task set.

81. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a transmitter for sequentially transmitting a plurality of task sets, each of said task sets comprising a first portion providing [a] the task and a second portion providing accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;

a plurality of broadcast stations for receiving said task sets and for broadcasting disparately structured programs to the members of the audience, wherein an individual one of said plurality of broadcast stations includes means for selecting one of said plurality of task sets for retransmission of the first portion of a selected task set to the members of the audience at a time fitting into a program structure of said one broadcast station;

means provided to the audience members for receiving a program and the first portion of the selected task set transmitted by one of said broadcast stations to which the audience members are tuned;

means provided to individual audience members for entering responses to [a] the task;

means at a central location for receiving and for storing the second portion of a transmitted task set to obtain the response criteria; and

means at said central location for evaluating an entered response of an audience member to determine whether the entered response is an acceptable response.

82. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a transmitter for sequentially transmitting a plurality of task sets, each of said task sets comprising a first portion providing [a] the task and a second portion providing accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;

a plurality of broadcast stations for receiving said [tasks] task and for broadcasting disparately structured programs to the

members of the audience wherein an individual one of said plurality of broadcast stations includes means for selecting one of said plurality of task sets for retransmission of the first portion of a selected task set to the audience members at a time fitting into a program structure of said one broadcast station;

means provided to the audience members for receiving a program and the first portion of the selected task set transmitted by one of the broadcast stations to which the audience members are tuned;

means provided to individual audience members for entering responses to [a] the task;

means for transmitting the responses of audience members to a central location;

means at said central location for receiving and for storing the second portion of a transmitted task set to obtain the response criteria; and

means at said central location for evaluating, including a scoring of, an entered response of an audience member to determine whether [an] the entered response is an acceptable response for determination of an award to [an] the audience member.

83. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a transmitter for sequentially transmitting a plurality of recorded task sets, a task set comprising a first portion providing [a] the task and a second portion providing accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response, said transmitter including a playback device for playing back said

recorded task sets;

a plurality of broadcast stations for receiving the first portions of said task sets and for broadcasting disparately structured programs to the members of the audience wherein an individual one of said broadcast stations includes means for selecting one of said plurality of task sets for retransmission of the first [task] portion of a selected task set to the members of the audience at a time fitting into a program structure of said one broadcast station;

means provided to individual ones of said audience members for receiving a program and the first portion of the selected task set transmitted by an individual one of said broadcast stations to which the audience members are tuned;

means provided to individual audience members for entering a response to [a] the task;

means at a central location for receiving and for storing the second portion of the selected task set; and

means at said central location for evaluating an entered response to determine whether the entered response is an acceptable response.

84. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a transmitter for sequentially transmitting recorded tasks of a plurality of task sets, a task set comprising [a] the task and accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;

a taped record of tasks;

a playback facility operatively coupled to said transmitter for playing back said taped record;

a plurality of broadcast stations for receiving said tasks and for broadcasting disparately structured programs to the members of the audience, wherein an individual one of said plurality of broadcast stations includes means for selecting one of said [plurality of] tasks for retransmission of the task to the audience members at a time fitting into a program structure of the one broadcast station;

means provided to the audience members for receiving the programs and the tasks transmitted by an individual one of said broadcast stations to which the audience members are tuned;

means provided to individual audience members for entering responses to [a] the task;

a taped record of the response criteria directed to at least one of said tasks;

means at a central location for evaluating an entered response to [a] the task in accordance with said response criteria to determine whether the entered response is an acceptable response;

means for communicating [an] the entered response to said evaluation means;

[a] the playback facility operatively coupled to said evaluating means for playing back said response-criteria record to said evaluating means; and

means for informing results of a response to an audience

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member who has entered [an] acceptable response.

[ Claim 85, lines 12 and 14, before "individual" insert --the--.

Claim 85, lines 18 and 21, change "a" to --the--.

86. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a plurality of transmitters for transmitting disparate programs of a plurality of broadcast stations;

a further transmitter for sequentially transmitting a plurality of tasks and accompanying response criteria defining acceptable responses;

CB  
const means at individual ones of said broadcast stations for receiving said plurality of tasks;

means at the individual ones of said stations for selecting and storing a received task;

means at the individual broadcast ones of said stations for retransmitting a stored task at a convenient determined time;

means at locations of said audience members for receiving a transmitted task;

means at said members' locations for entering a response to [a] the task;

means at a central location for receiving said response criteria;

mean for transmitting a member's entered response to said central location; and

means at said central location for comparing [a] the member's entered responses to the accompanying response criteria to determine whether [a] the member's entered response is an acceptable response.

87. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

transmitting facilities for sequentially transmitting a plurality of recorded task sets, each of said task sets comprising a first portion providing [a] the task and a second portion providing accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;

means at each of said transmitting facilities for playing back said recorded task sets;

a plurality of broadcast stations for receiving portions of said task[s] and for broadcasting disparately structured programs to the members of said audience, wherein an individual one of said plurality of broadcast stations includes means for selecting one of [said] a plurality of tasks for retransmission of the first portion of one of said task sets to the members of said audience at a time fitting into a program structure of said individual broadcast station;

means provided to the members of said audience for receiving a program and the first portion of each task set transmitted by one of said plurality of broadcast stations, individual members of the audience being tuned to individual ones of said broadcast stations;

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408



means operable by the individual audience members for entering [a] the response to [a] the task;

means for receiving the second portion of a transmitted task set for use of the response criteria of said second portion for evaluating [a] the member's response; and

means for evaluating entered responses of the members of the audience to determine whether a response is an acceptable response.

88. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

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a transmitter for sequentially transmitting recorded tasks of a plurality of task sets, each of said task sets comprising [a] the task and accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;

a taped record of tasks;

a playback facility operatively coupled with said transmitter for playing back said taped record of tasks;

a plurality of broadcast stations for receiving said tasks and for broadcasting disparately structured programs to the members of said audience, wherein an individual one of said plurality of broadcast stations includes means for selecting one of said [plurality of] tasks for retransmission of [a] the task to the audience members at a time fitting into a program structure of said individual one of the broadcast stations;

means provided to the audience members for receiving a program and the task transmitted by [an] the individual one of said

broadcast stations to which the audience members are tuned;

means provided to the members of the audience for entering responses to [a] the task;

[a] the taped record of response criteria pertaining to one or more of said tasks;

C16  
correct a playback facility for playing back said taped record of response criteria;

means for receiving said response criteria from said playback facility; and

means for evaluating the responses entered by the audience members in accordance with said response criteria to determine whether individual ones of entered responses are acceptable responses.

89. (Amended) A system for conducting a game for members of an audience and for entering successful ones of the members in a sweepstakes, the system comprising:

C17  
correct means at a central location for transmitting by cable or over the air a task to the members of [an] the audience, said task calling for an acceptable response defined by response evaluation instructions;

means at locations of said members for receiving said task;

response means operable by a member of said audience for entering a response to [a] the task;

at [a] the central location, an evaluation facility having evaluation means including a memory storing the response-evaluation

instructions to determine [an] the acceptable response by a successful member of the audience;

means at [a] the central location for transmitting by the cable or over the air the response-evaluation instructions to said evaluation facility;

means for communicating an audience member's entered response to said evaluation facility;

CF7  
cont means for identifying a member through use, by said member, of said response means;

means for storing identifications of successful members;

means for entering identified successful members in [a] the sweepstakes;

means for conducting [a] the sweepstakes to determine at least one winner; and

means for informing winners of said sweepstakes.

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90. (Three times amended) A system for conducting a sweepstakes for members of the audiences of broadcast stations, comprising:

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cont a plurality of broadcast stations broadcasting [their] respective individual programs;

means for conveying to said broadcast stations at least one of a task set for broadcasting by an individual one of said stations to [its] an audience of the one station at a point in time fitting into a program structure of said individual broadcast station;

means at the locations of individual audience members of said broadcast station for receiving a task of the task set;

means at the locations of the members of the audience of said individual broadcast station for entering a response to [a] the task;

a central response evaluation facility having a memory for storing response criteria electronically received, said response criteria defining an acceptable response to an accompanying task;

CS  
CRA  
a communications link between said response entering means and said response evaluation facility for communicating a respondent's response and identification to said evaluation facility;

means at said evaluation facility for determining a successful respondent by comparing a respondent's entered response to accompanying response criteria;

means for entering the identification of successful respondents in [a] the sweepstakes;

means for conducting [a] the sweepstakes by randomly determining a winner; and

means for informing a winning respondent of a result of the sweepstakes.

91. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a sweepstakes for members of the audiences of broadcast stations, comprising:

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CRA  
a plurality of broadcast stations broadcasting [their] respective individual programs;

means for conveying to said broadcast stations at least one

task for broadcasting, by an individual one of said broadcast stations, to [its] an audience of the one station at a point in time fitting into a program structure of said one broadcast station;

means at the locations of individual ones of said audience members of said individual broadcast stations for receiving a task;

at each of said members' locations, a response unit operable by an identified audience member comprising means for entering a response to [a] the task, a memory for storing a response criteria electronically received, said response criteria defining an acceptable response to an accompanying task, and means for evaluating [a] the response by comparing an entered task with accompanying response criteria to determine [an] the acceptable response by an identified successful respondent;

a central storage facility for respondent's identification;

a communications link between said response unit and said storage facility for communicating a successful respondent's identification to said storage facility;

means for entering the identification of successful respondents in [a] the sweepstakes;

means for conducting [a] the sweepstakes by randomly determining a winner; and

means for informing a winning respondent of a result of the sweepstakes.

92. (Amended) A system for conducting a survey or poll comprising:

means for transmitting electronic signals eliciting responses to questions by members of a polling audience at remote locations;

signal receiving means at the locations of said audience members;

means at said members' locations, for entering the responses to survey questions;

a central response data storage facility;

means for electronically communicating response data from members' locations to said data storage facility;

means at a central location for identifying responding members;

means at [a] the central location for entering the responding members in a sweepstakes;

means for conducting [a] the sweepstakes; and

means for informing the responding members of the audience who are sweepstakes winners.

Claim 94, lines 1-2, change " any one of Claims 56, 66, and 76" to --Claim 56--.

Claim 94, line 3, change "response" to --the response--.

95. (Twice amended) A method according to any one of Claims [64, 67,] 70 and 71 wherein the stations receive the tasks and response evaluation criteria, further comprising a step of

transmitting the tasks by the broadcast stations to [their] the broadcast station's audiences and transmitting, by the

*C20*  
*correl*  
broadcast stations, the response evaluation criteria to said central facility, wherein there is more than one acceptable response to [a task] one of the tasks, [an] the acceptable response is further rewarded with a prize printed on a hard copy record such as a monetary coupon, and the broadcast stations include radio stations and over the air and cable TV stations.

*C21*  
96. (Twice amended) A method according to any one of Claims 58, 59, 60 and 61 further comprising a step of rewarding the acceptable [responses] response with higher scores with two or more entries into the sweepstakes or the prize event, wherein said response unit includes comparing, evaluating, scoring and printing means at the locations of the audience members.

[  
Claim 97, line 3, change "tasks" to --task--.

*C22*  
99. (Twice amended) A method according to any one of Claims 57, 58, 66 and 67 wherein said informing step includes notifying [an] the audience member who has entered [an] the acceptable response by means of a taped voice message automatically conveyed to said member on a telephone line, the method further comprising

identifying [an] the audience member having entered [an] the acceptable response via automatic number identification; and

storing the identities of the audience members having entered [an] the acceptable response.

[  
Claim 100, line 2, delete --, 62--.

Claim 101, line 3, change "audience" to --the audience--.

Claim 104, line 2, change "said record" to --each of said hard copy records--.

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105. (Twice amended) A method according to Claim 101 wherein individual ones of said hard copy [record] records [is] are numbered or coded by respective individual ones of said response units in accordance with instructional signals, each of said response units includes means for scoring [an] the acceptable response in accordance with the response criteria, the programs of said plurality of broadcast stations differ with the programs of different ones of said stations providing different television programs, and said method includes a further step of scoring [an] the acceptable response.

C24  
106. (Twice amended) A method according to any one of Claims 61[, 62] and 64 further comprising a step of rewarding an audience member having entered an acceptable response to [a] the task [or a question], in addition to an entry into [a] the sweepstakes, with a prize or a printout [, such as] or a monetary coupon, generated at the location of the audience member entering the acceptable response.

[ Claim 107, line 3, change "a" to --the--.

Claim 107, line 6, change "a" (both occurrences) to --the--.

C25  
108. (Amended) A method according to Claim 73 wherein each of said time intervals has a duration at least equal to a time required for the transmission of [a] the task set and, wherein, in the case of [a] the task set involving a prediction of an event, the method further comprises a step of storing predictions by the audience members, and said event takes place before the end of one of the [program] programs broadcast by a station, results are made known followed by a step of entering correct or acceptable responses in a sweepstakes.

[ Claim 109, line 4, change "a" to --the--.

Claim 109, line 5, change "a response by a" to --the response by the--.



110. (Amended) A method according to any one of Claims 57 and 59 further comprising steps of coding or scrambling [a] the quiz prior to said step of transmitting [a] the quiz, and decoding or descrambling of said quiz by an individual network station prior to retransmitting said quiz to [its] the individual network station's audience.

111. (Amended) A method according to any one of Claims 57, 58 and 59 further comprising steps of entering [an] the audience member having entered an acceptable response in [a] the sweepstakes, the programs of the various stations differing with respect to at least one of the program materials consisting of program content [and/or] and the chronological structure of program segments[;].

112. (Amended) A method according to any one of Claims 54[, 55] and 62 further comprising steps of receiving response criteria at a central evaluation hub, and evaluating responses of the audience members at said hub in accordance with said response criteria.

113. (Twice amended) A method according to Claim 73 further comprising a step of establishing a time allowed for generating [a] the response, wherein a task set and time allowed do not exceed said at least one time interval in length[.] and, wherein said [plurality of] broadcast facilities includes television and radio stations, there being a further step of rewarding acceptable responses with higher scores with two or more entries in [the] a sweepstakes.

Claim 114, line 2, change "a" (second occurrence) to --the--.

Claim 114, line 5, change "a" (all occurrences) to --the--.

Claim 115, line 3, change "an" to --the--.

Claim 116, line 2, change "a" to --the--.

Claim 117, line 4, change "tasks of a" to --the tasks of the--.

Claim 118, line 4, change "tasks" to --the tasks--.

Claim 119, line 2, change "a" to --the--.

Claim 119, line 3, change "an" to --the--.

Claim 121, line 3, change "response" to --the response--.

Claim 122, line 4, change "audience" to --the audience--.

Claim 123, line 4, change "audience" to --the audience--.

Claim 124, line 3, change "a task" to --the task--.

Claim 124, line 4, change "audience" to --the audience--.

Claim 125, line 3, change "a task" to --the task--.

C97  
126. (Amended) A method according to any one of Claims 62 and 66 wherein said central facility is a central telephone facility, the method further comprising a step of electronically debiting participating ones of the audience members with amounts charged for use of said central facility [and/or] or crediting participating individual ones of the audience members who have been awarded a monetary prize for [an] acceptable responses.

[ Claim 128, line 3, change "a task" to --the task--.

Claim 128, line 4, change "audience" to --the audience--.

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C98  
129. (Amended) A method according to Claim 128 further comprising a step of including in [a] responses of the audience members a granting or withholding of authorization to an operator of the broadcasting from the central location to announce [their]

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*2000*  
identities of the audience members on the air by including such notification in [their] audience members' entered responses.

Claim 130, line 2, after "conveying" insert --the--.

Claim 130, line 5, change "their" to --the--.

Claim 131, line 3, change "a task" to --the task--.

Claim 131, line 4, change "audience" to --the audience--.

Claim 132, line 3, after "central", insert --receiving and--.

Claim 132, line 6, after "wherein", change "a" to --the--.

Claim 134, line 3, change "a task" to --the task--.

Claim 134, line 5, after "task," insert --set--.

Claim 134, line 6, change "audience" to --the audience--.

Claim 135, lines 4 and 6, change "task" to --the task--.

Claim 135, line 8, change "and/or" to --or--.

Claim 136, line 3, change "a task" to --the task--.

Claim 137, line 2, change "82, 83" to --82--.

Claim 137, line 2, delete "wherein" (second occurrence).

140. (Three times amended) A system according to Claim 80 further comprising

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*cost*  
means coupled to said transmitter for coding or scrambling a portion of [a] the task set and means at the individual ones of said broadcast stations for decoding or descrambling said portion of the task set;

means for presenting a question from [a] the task at remote locations of the audience members at least partially in visual form; and

*C29*  
 wherein said entering means is operative with an enhanced telephone having visual presentation means.

Claim 141, line 5, before "individual" insert --the--.

Claim 141, line 7, change "a task" to --the task--.

Claim 141, line 8, change "audience" to --the audience--.

142. (Three times amended) A system according to Claim 90 further comprising:

*CBD*  
 means coupled to said conveying means for coding or scrambling task portions and means at individual ones of said broadcast stations for decoding or descrambling said portions;

means for presenting a question from [a] the task at remote locations of the audience members at least partially in visual form; and

wherein said response entering means is operative with an enhanced telephone having visual presentation means.

Claim 143, line 3, change "a response" to --the response--.

Claim 148, line 3, delete "plurality of".

Claim 149, line 2, change "82, 83" to --82--.

Claim 149, line 5, change "a" to --the --.

Claim 149, line 6, change "response" to --responses--.

Claim 150, line 2, change "a central" to --the central--.

Claim 151, line 4, change "a game" to --the game--.

*C31*  
*cont*  
 152. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a

task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

transmitters for transmitting disparate programs of a plurality of broadcast stations to a plurality of audiences in different geographic locations;

central transmitting means for sequentially transmitting a plurality of tasks and accompanying response criteria defining acceptable responses;

means at said broadcast stations for receiving said plurality of tasks;

C1  
31 Oct  
means at individual broadcast stations for retransmitting tasks selected from said plurality of tasks at convenient determined times [in their programs], said tasks being followed by accompanying, machine-readable response criteria, said tasks and the response criteria being retransmitted by at least some of said stations at different times;

means at said members' locations for receiving a retransmitted task and the response criteria from the individual broadcast [station] stations to which [they] the members are tuned for the time of retransmission;

means at said members' locations for entering a response to [a] the task received from one of said stations, and means operatively connected to said entering means for receiving and reading the response criteria and means for determining whether a member's response is an acceptable response by comparing an entered response to [an] the acceptable response.

153. (Twice amended) A method for conducting a game for members of a plurality of different broadcast audiences in which

members' responses to a task are evaluated in accordance with response criteria, comprising the steps of:

by means of a plurality of broadcast stations, transmitting signals concurrently conveying a plurality of different programs having different program structures to different audiences;

providing to said plurality of stations a plurality of different task sets, a task set including [a] the task and accompanying response criteria defining an acceptable response;

by means of individual ones of said broadcast stations, selecting and transmitting to their respective audiences [a] the task chronologically fitting into a station's program structures, which transmissions by different individual stations occur at different times;

by means of the individual ones of said broadcast stations, transmitting machine-readable response criteria accompanying [a] the task;

receiving by audience members [a] the task at the time of transmission by a station to which [they] the members are tuned, the different audiences receiving tasks at different times;

providing means to the audience members to enter a response to [a] the task;

entering by a member [a] the response to [a] the task in the entering means;

providing means for receiving the machine-readable response criteria and for comparing an entered response to the accompanying response criteria;

receiving response criteria signals by a comparison means; and

comparing a member's response to [a] the task to accompanying response criteria to determine whether [an] the entered response is [an] the acceptable response.

154. (Twice amended) A method for generating large broadcast audiences comprising the steps of:

(3)  
out  
providing a first electronic signal transmitting system comprising a network of stations broadcasting programs to members of a remote audience, said stations broadcasting [their] individually scheduled programs, [which programs may be disparate,] said stations being equipped to receive and retransmit quiz signals, a quiz comprising a task and previously determined response criteria defining at least one acceptable response accompanying said task;

providing a second electronic signal transmitting system for transmitting the quiz signals to said network stations;

formulating a plurality of quizzes at a central location;

consecutively transmitting by said second system said plurality of quizzes to said network stations;

by means of the network stations, receiving and selecting at least one quiz from said plurality of quizzes;

by means of a network station, retransmitting a selected quiz task to the members of an audience of said network station at a time determined by said network station;

providing an evaluation station having means for receiving a response to [a] the task entered by a member, means for receiving

the response criteria signals, means for evaluating an entered response in accordance with said response criteria, and means for identifying an acceptable response;

entering [a] the response to [a] the task by [a] the member of said audience;

evaluating [a] the member's response;

providing means for identifying [a] the member having entered [an] the acceptable response;

providing means at a central data storage location for storing the identifications of members having entered [an] the acceptable response; and

entering identified members in a prize event.

155. (Amended) A method for conducting a qualifying event for audience members of broadcast stations and for entering winners of said event in a final prize event, said method comprising:

by means of a plurality of stations, broadcasting [their] the stations' individually and disparately scheduled program segments;

supplying to said stations a stream of successive tasks at relatively short intervals, as compared to the duration of a program segment, each task having an accompanying winning response;

selecting from said task stream, by an individual station, a task chronologically suitable for insertion into [that] said individual station's program structure for retransmission to [its] the audience member said individual stations;

C 31  
cont



by means of a station, retransmitting a selected task;

receiving [a] the task by an audience member;

responding by an audience member to [a] the task by entering a response to an entering device;

successively transmitting winning responses to the tasks from a central location to response evaluating means;

by means of said evaluating means, comparing a member's entered response with a winning response to determine winning members of said qualifying event;

identifying the winning members;

entering winning members in [a] the final prize event; and

determining at least one winner of said final prize event.

156. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a qualifying event and a final prize event for members of a broadcast audience, the system comprising:

a plurality of transmitters for transmitting chronologically disparate program segments of a plurality of broadcast stations;

means for sequentially transmitting for use in [a] the qualifying event, a plurality of tasks and predetermined accompanying response criteria defining acceptable responses;

means at individual ones of said broadcast stations for receiving said plurality of tasks and the response criteria;

means at said individual stations for selecting a received

C31  
Wael

C32  
cont

425

task and the response criteria;

means at said individual stations for retransmitting a selected task and the response criteria at a convenient determined time, said response criteria being timed so as to be useless in responding to a task;

C33  
cancel  
means at each of said members' locations for receiving a retransmitted task;

means at each of said members' locations for entering a response to [a] the task, said means being associated with an identified member;

means operatively connected to said entering means for receiving said response criteria and for identifying qualifying members by determining whether an identified member's response is an acceptable response by comparing a member's entered response to accompanying response criteria;

means for collecting identifications of the qualifying members in a central storage facility; and

means for entering the qualified members in a prize event.

Claim 157, line 5, delete", such as broadcasting,".

Claim 157, lines 13 and 16, after "at" insert --the--.

Claim 157, line 20, after "by" insert --the--.

Claim 158, line 4, delete ", such as broadcasting,".

Claim 158, lines 14 and 19, before "different" insert --the--.

Claim 158, line 21, before "acceptable" insert --the--.

C33  
cancel  
159. (Amended) A method for attracting large audiences to program disseminating stations comprising the steps of:

by means of a plurality of stations, concurrently disseminating, different programs;

inserting different questions at different times in the different programs disseminated by said stations;

receiving, by members of the audiences of said stations, questions disseminated by said stations at the different times;

answering said questions by said members at the different times;

determining acceptable answers by said members at the different times;

identifying successful members who have answered acceptably;

following identification, communicating the identifications of the successful members to a common storage facility;

storing said identifications received at the different times; and

rewarding the successful members by entering [them] the successful members in a prize event.

160. (Twice Amended) A method for attracting large audiences to large and small broadcast stations comprising the steps of:

forming a broadcast network comprising a plurality of [television and/or radio] network stations, said network stations being from the class of broadcast stations consisting of television and radio stations, some of said network stations having much larger audiences and much larger advertising revenues than other ones of said network stations, at least some of said network

stations broadcasting disparate programs;

providing to said network stations a plurality of different questions, each question requiring an affirmative or negative answer;

by means of an individual one of said plurality of network stations, selecting and broadcasting questions at a time fitting into said individual station's program, said [times] time of broadcasting varying between at least some of said network stations;

affirmatively or negatively answering a question by members of the audiences of said network stations, said questions being broadcast by a station to which the members are tuned;

accepting or rejecting said members' answer to identify successful members having responded correctly; and

entering all successful members in a common event so that every audience member of every network station, irrespective of the size of an individual one of said [audience] audiences [size] and advertising revenue of said station, has an equal opportunity of being entered in [a] the common event, thereby attracting large audiences to network stations.

161. (Twice amended) A method for attracting large audiences to broadcast stations comprising the steps of:

forming a broadcast network comprising a plurality of [television and/or radio] network stations, said network stations being from the class of broadcast stations consisting of television and radio stations, at least some of said network stations broadcasting programs having different chronologic program structures;

consecutively providing to network stations a plurality of tasks, each task having at least two acceptable responses at different difficulty levels;

selecting and broadcasting, by each of said plurality of network stations, a task at a time fitting into each station's program structure, the times of broadcasting tasks by said network stations varying with respect to at least some of said stations;

responding, by members of the audiences of network stations, to [a] the task broadcast by a station to which [they] the members are tuned at a difficulty level selected by individual members;

034  
004  
evaluating members' responses to determine successful members having responded in an acceptable manner;

scoring acceptable responses in accordance with [its] difficulty [level] levels of the respective responses;

using caller identification means to identify the successful members; and

awarding the successful members one or more entries in a common sweepstakes in accordance with a score of each of the [response] responses.

162. (Twice amended) A method for attracting large audiences to broadcast stations comprising the steps of:

forming a plurality of regional broadcast networks, each regional network comprising a plurality of [television and/or radio] network stations, said network stations being from the class of broadcast stations consisting of television and radio stations, at least some of said network stations broadcasting disparate programs;

providing to individual ones of said network stations a plurality of tasks, each of said tasks having an acceptable response as defined by response criteria;

by means of an individual one of said plurality of network stations, selecting and broadcasting [a] the task and the response criteria at a time fitting into an individual station's program;

responding by members of the audiences of regional network stations to respective tasks broadcast by respective ones of said stations to which the members are tuned;

C34  
cont  
evaluating responses of said members in accordance with the response criteria to determine successful members of regional network audiences having responded in an acceptable manner;

identifying the successful members;

entering all successful members of a regional network audience in a preliminary prize event, whereby every audience member of every regional network station has an opportunity of being entered in a preliminary prize event, thereby attracting large audiences to regional network stations;

determining at least one preliminary prize event winner; and

entering the [winners] winner of said [plurality of] preliminary prize [events] event of every regional network station in a final common prize event.

C35  
cont  
163. (Amended) In a method for conducting a sweepstakes event for audience members of a plurality of stations concurrently broadcasting disparate programs, said method including the steps of stations broadcasting a task to audiences of the stations, responding by the audience members to [a] the task, and comparing

members' responses to response criteria defining an acceptable response, the improvement comprising the steps of:

providing the stations with a plurality of tasks successively received by the stations;

by means of an individual station, selecting a harmonious task suitable for insertion into said station's program;

transmitting a selected task by a station;

receiving [a] the selected task by the audience members of said station;

entering a response to said task by the audience members by use of comparison means before knowing the response criteria;

receiving the response criteria by said comparison means;

determining by said comparison means qualified members having entered [an] the acceptable response;

entering the qualified members in a sweepstakes; and

determining a sweepstakes winner.

164. (Twice amended) A method for attracting audiences to broadcast stations comprising the steps of:

transmitting from one or more locations a plurality of task sets at relatively short intervals and accompanying response criteria, a task set including at least one question, the accompanying response criteria defining an acceptable answer and a time period allowed to answer a question;

forming a network of a plurality of [TV and/or radio] network stations, said network stations being from the class of broadcast stations consisting of television and radio stations, said stations concurrently broadcasting their individually scheduled programs, said programs being at least partially disparate;

said stations receiving the task sets;

C57  
C001  
individual ones of said stations rebroadcasting one or more task sets at a time or times convenient to an individual one of the [station] stations, at least some of said rebroadcastings occurring at different times, wherein said response criteria are rebroadcast following [a] the time period allowed for answering;

providing to identified members of the audiences of said stations means for entering an answer to a task;

providing means operatively connected to said entering means for receiving said response criteria and for comparing an entered answer with the accompanying response criteria, so as to determine whether an identified audience member has entered [an] the acceptable answer; and

entering in a prize event [an] the identified audience member who has entered [an] the acceptable answer.

165. (Amended) A method for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the [system] method comprising:

C57  
C001  
transmitting means sequentially transmitting a plurality of task sets, a task set comprising a task portion including a period of time allowed for responding and a response criteria portion defining at least one acceptable response;



by means of a plurality of stations, broadcasting disparate programs to [their respective] audiences of the respective stations;

by means of said stations, receiving said task sets;

by means of individual ones of said plurality of stations, selecting one of said plurality of task sets for transmission of the task portion of said task set to [their] the [audience] audiences of the respective stations;

by means of an individual station, transmitting [its program] an individual one of said programs by said station, including at a determined time the task of the selected task set, followed by the response criteria after a delay which renders said response criteria useless for responding purposes;

receiving the program and the task by the audience members;

providing means for an entering by individual audience members of a response to [a] the task;

providing means for receiving the delayed response criteria portion of a transmitted task set and for the evaluation of [an] the audience member's response;

entering a response to [a] the task by an audience member; and

evaluating an entered response in accordance with said response criteria to determine whether [a] response is an acceptable response.

166. (Three times amended) A method for conducting a sweepstakes for members of the audiences of broadcast stations, comprising the steps of:

by means of a plurality of stations, broadcasting [their] individual programs by respective ones of said stations;

mechanically, optically or electronically conveying to said stations at least one task for broadcasting to said stations' audiences, a task having associated with [it] the task information defining an acceptable response;

by means of an individual one of said stations, selecting a point in time fitting into said station's program structure for broadcasting [a] the task;

C37  
000000  
broadcasting, by a station in the course of [its] the station's program, the task and response information at a selected time;

receiving a program and [a] the task by the members of said audiences;

providing to the audience members response entering means, said entering means being identifiably associated with an audience member;

providing central evaluation means with means for receiving the response information, a programmable memory for storing the response information, and means for determining [an] the acceptable response operative to compare an entered response to associated response information;

receiving instructional response information at said central evaluation means;

entering a response to [an] the entering means by an individual member, said entering means being operatively connected to said evaluation means;

communicating said response to said evaluation means;

determining by said evaluation means [an] the acceptable response by a successful respondent;

providing a central storage facility for successful respondents' identifications;

providing a communications link between said evaluation means and said storage facility;

communicating the successful respondents' identifications to said central facility for storing;

entering successful respondents in a sweepstakes;

conducting a sweepstakes by randomly determining winners; and

announcing sweepstakes winners.

167. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

means for transmitting recorded task sets, a task set comprising a first task portion and a second accompanying response criteria portion defining at least one acceptable response;

a plurality of stations broadcasting disparately structured programs to [their] respective audiences of the stations, wherein an individual one of said plurality of stations selects a time during said station's program for transmitting the first task portion of a task set to said station's audience, said time having been selected so as to fit into said station's program structure;

means at the locations of the audience members for receiving the program and first task portion transmitted by a station to which [they] the members are tuned;

means for entering a response to a task by individual audience members;

means at a central location for receiving and storing the second response criteria portion of a transmitted task set; and

means at said central location for receiving and evaluating an entered response in accordance with the response criteria to determine whether [it] the entered response is an acceptable response.

C38  
cont 168. (Three times amended) A system for conducting a preliminary and a final prize event for members of the audiences of broadcast stations, comprising:

a plurality of stations broadcasting [their] respective individual programs[, which programs may be disparate];

means for storing at said stations at least one recorded task set of [a] the preliminary event;

means for broadcasting a task by an individual one of said stations to [its] an audience of the one station at a point in time fitting into a program structure of said one station;

means at a central location for transmitting response criteria defining an acceptable response to said task;

means at the locations of individual audience members of said station for receiving one of said programs and said task;

means at said audience members' locations for telephonically entering a response to [a] the task via a telephone facility;

means for caller identification to identify respondents who enter responses to said task;

a central response evaluation facility operatively connected to said telephone facility having means for receiving said response criteria, a programmable memory for storing the response criteria, and means for determining a successful respondent in said preliminary event by comparing a respondent's entered response to accompanying response criteria;

C38  
correct  
a facility for conducting [a] the final prize event for successful ones of said respondents; and

means for conveying identifications of said successful respondents to said final prize event facility.

169. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a transmitting facility for sequentially transmitting a plurality of recorded task sets, each of said task sets comprising [a] the task and an accompanying predetermined response, said facility including a playback device for playing back said recorded task sets;

a plurality of stations having means for receiving portions of tasks of said task sets and for broadcasting disparate structured programs to the stations' respective audiences, wherein an individual one of said plurality of stations selects one of said plurality of task sets for retransmission of the task of said task

437

set to [its] the individual station's audience at a time fitting into [its] a program structure of the individual stations; and wherein the audience members receive [the] a program and the task [portion] transmitted by one of the [station] stations to which [they] the members are tuned;

means for entering a response to [a] the task by individual audience members; and

a central evaluation facility, including means for receiving an entered response and for receiving the response criteria portion of a transmitted task set, and further including a communicating link with said entering means, and means for evaluating [an] the entered response in accordance with the response criteria to determine whether said entered response is an acceptable response.

C38  
C38  
170. (Three times amended) A method for conducting a game comprising the steps of:

transmitting a scheduled program by each of a plurality of stations, at least some program structures of said stations being disparate;

recording tasks of a plurality of task sets, each of said task sets including a task, such as a question, and an accompanying response criteria including an acceptable answer;

recording a plurality of response criteria accompanying said tasks;

playing back and transmitting recorded ones of said tasks from a central location;

playing back and transmitting said response criteria from [a] the central location;

selecting a received task, by an individual one of said plurality of stations, for retransmission to [its] an audience of the individual station at a convenient time;

by means of said individual station, retransmitting a selected task during [its] the program of the individual station;

receiving a retransmitted task, by audience members of said individual station;

providing a central facility having means for communicating with individual ones of said audience members, means for receiving said response criteria, means for receiving a response to [a] the task from the individual ones of the members of said [audiences] audience, means for identifying an acceptable response by comparison of a member's response with the accompanying response criteria, and means for identifying an audience member having entered [an] the acceptable response;

entering [a] the response to [a] the task by an audience member by use of [an] the entering means, said entering means being operatively connected by said communicating means to said central facility;

communicating a member's entered response to said central facility;

by means of said central facility, identifying an acceptable entered response; and

by means of said central facility, informing a member having entered [an] the acceptable response.

171. (Twice amended) A method for conducting a game comprising the steps of:

by means of each of a plurality of broadcast stations, broadcasting a program, at least some of said stations' programs being disparate;

recording a plurality of tasks;

playing back and transmitting said tasks from a central facility;

by means of said broadcast stations, receiving said tasks;

by means of individual ones of said plurality of broadcast stations, selecting the tasks for retransmission to audiences of respective ones of said broadcast stations at a convenient time;

by means of individual stations, retransmitting selected tasks during programs of the stations, times of retransmission of the tasks varying between at least some of said stations;

receiving retransmitted tasks at different times by audience members of said individual stations;

recording a plurality of response criteria, a response criteria accompanying a task and defining an acceptable response to said task;

playing back and transmitting the response criteria from [a] the central facility, said response criteria transmission being synchronized with an accompanying task transmission;

providing a common evaluation facility having means for receiving the response criteria, means for communicating with locations of caller-identified audience members, means for receiving a response from individual ones of said members, means for identifying [an] the acceptable response by the



caller-identified audience member, said response meeting the response criteria;

entering [a] the response to [a] the task by an audience member by use of an entering means, said entering means being operatively connected through said [communications] communicating means to said evaluation facility;

by means of said evaluation facility, receiving an audience member's entered response;

by means of said evaluation facility, evaluating an entered response in accordance with said response criteria; and

by means of said evaluating facility, identifying [an] the acceptable response.

172. (Amended) A method for conducting a sweepstakes for members of the audiences of broadcast stations, comprising the steps of:

by means of a plurality of the broadcast stations, broadcasting [their] individual programs of the broadcast stations;

mechanically, optically or electronically conveying to said stations at least one task set for broadcasting to said stations' audiences, a task set comprising a task and instructional response criteria to determine and score acceptable responses;

by means of an individual one of said stations, selecting a point in time fitting into said station's program structure for broadcasting [a] the task set;

broadcasting [a] the task set at a selected time by said individual station in the course of [its] the program of the

individual station;

receiving a program and [a] the task by the members of said audiences;

providing central evaluation means including means for receiving the instructional response criteria, a programmable memory for storing the response criteria, means for determining an acceptable response by comparing an entered response to accompanying response criteria and means for scoring by assigning a value to [an] the acceptable response;

providing to the audience members response entering means, said entering means being identifiably associated with an audience member, said entering means being operatively connected to said central evaluation means;

entering a response by an individual member;

communicating said response to said evaluation means;

determining [an] the acceptable response by a successful respondent;

scoring by assigning [a] the value to [an] the acceptable response;

providing a central storage facility for successful respondents' identifications and scored response results;

providing communication means between said evaluation means and said storage facility;

communicating successful respondent's identifications and the scored response results to said central facility for storing;

entering successful respondents and [their] the scored results  
of the successful respondents in [a] the sweepstakes;

C39  
 cont  
 weighting successful respondents' entries in accordance with  
the scored results;

conducting [a] the sweepstakes randomly determining winners,  
 the probabilities of random determination being skewed by said  
 weighting; and

announcing sweepstakes winners.

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173. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a game for  
 members of an audience and for entering successful members in a  
 prize event, comprising:

means at a central location for transmitting by cable or over  
 the air, including satellite transmissions, a task to the members  
 of [an] the audience, said task calling for an acceptable response  
 defined by response evaluation instructions;

C40  
 cont  
 means for entering a response of a member of said audience to  
 [a] the task;

at [a] the central location, a facility having evaluation  
 means including a memory programmable by the response evaluation  
 instructions to determine [an] the acceptable response by a  
 successful member;

means at [a] the central location for transmitting by the  
 cable or over the air, including satellite transmission, the  
 response evaluation instructions to said evaluation facility;

means for communicating a member's entered response to said  
 evaluation facility;

means for identifying [a] the member through said member's use of said response entering means;

means for storing identifications of the successful members in a central storage facility;

means for entering the identifications of the successful members from said storage facility in [a] the prize event;

means for conducting [a] the prize event to determine at least one winner; and means for informing winners of said prize event.

174. (Twice amended) A method for conducting a game comprising the steps of:

by means of each of a plurality of broadcast stations, broadcasting a scheduled program, at least some programs of said stations being disparate;

recording and storing a plurality of tasks at a central location;

by means of an individual one of said plurality of broadcast stations, requesting a task for retransmission to [its] an audience of the individual station at a convenient time;

transmitting [a] the task to said individual station;

receiving said task by said individual station ;

by means of said station, retransmitting said task during said program of said individual station;

receiving a retransmitted task by audience members of said individual station;

444

recording and storing a plurality of response criteria at [a] the central location, a response criteria accompanying [a] the task and defining an acceptable response to said task;

transmitting [a] the response criteria accompanying a requested task from [a] the central location;

providing a central evaluation facility having means for receiving the response criteria accompanying [a] the requested task, means for receiving a response from individual ones of the members of said audience[s], means for evaluating a member's response by comparison to the accompanying response criteria, means for identifying [an] the acceptable response by an audience member; and

means for identifying [an] the audience member having entered [an] the acceptable response;

entering [a] the response to a task by [an] the audience member by use of an entering means being identifiably associated with said member, said entering means being operatively connected to said evaluation facility;

by means of said evaluation facility, receiving an audience member's entered response;

by means of said evaluation facility, evaluating an entered response in accordance with said response criteria;

identifying an acceptable entered response; and

identifying [a] the member having entered [an] the acceptable response.

Claim 175, line 11, change "a task" to --the task--.

445

[ Claim 175, lines 16 - 17, change "a task" to --the task--.

Claim 175, line 24, change "accompanying" to --the accompanying--.

176. (Twice amended) A method for conducting a preliminary game for members of an audience and for entering successful members in a prize event, the method comprising:

formulating a question of a preliminary game to be answered by the members of a broadcast audience;

formulating response criteria accompanying the question and defining an acceptable answer to said question;

mechanically, optically, or electronically providing said question to a broadcast station;

by means of said station, selecting a time slot fitting into a program structure of the station for broadcasting said question to the station's audience;

by means of said station, broadcasting said question to said station's [its] audience [at the selected] during said time slot;

receiving said question by a member of said audience;

providing answer entering means to the members of said audience, said entering means being associated with an identified member;

providing a communications hub means for determining [an] the acceptable answer to [a] the question by [a] the member of said audience by comparing an entered answer to accompanying response criteria;

mechanically, optically or electronically providing response

criteria accompanying an answer to said hub means;

entering [an] the answer to a question by [a] the member of said audience;

providing means for communicating a member's answer and identification to said hub means;

communicating a member's entered answer and identification to said hub means;

comparing at said hub an entered answer to the accompanying response criteria to determine [an] the acceptable answer by an identified successful member;

storing the identifications of the successful members at a central storage facility;

entering the identifications of the successful members in [a] the prize event;

conducting [a] the prize event to determine a winner; and

informing [a] the winner.

177. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a transmitter for transmitting one of a plurality of recorded task sets, a task set comprising a first task portion and a second accompanying response criteria portion defining at least one acceptable response, said transmitter including a playback device for playing back a recorded task set at a specified time;

a plurality of stations having means for receiving the portions of [a] the task set and for broadcasting disparately structured programs to [their] respective audiences of said stations, wherein an individual one of said plurality of stations predetermines [a] the specified time for retransmitting the first task portion of [a] the task set to the audience of said individual station, said specified time fitting into the program structure of said individual station, wherein the audience members receive a program and the first task portion transmitted by a station to which [they] said members are tuned at said specified time;

means for entering a response to [a] the task by individual audience members;

*Call  
center*  
means at a central location for receiving the second response criteria portion of a transmitted task set at essentially said specified time;

means for communicating [a] the response from said entering means to said central receiving means; and

means at said central location for evaluating an entered response by comparing [it] the entered response to the response criteria to determine whether [it] the entered response is [an] the acceptable response.

178. (Twice amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

means for sequentially transmitting a plurality of task sets, a task set comprising a task portion and an accompanying response criteria portion defining at least one acceptable response;



a plurality of stations having means for receiving the portions of said task sets and for broadcasting disparately structured programs to the stations' respective audiences, wherein an individual one of said plurality of stations selects one of said plurality of task sets for retransmission of the task portion of said task set to the audience at a time fitting into the station's program structure, times of retransmissions varying between the stations, wherein the audience members of the respective stations receive [the] [program] programs and task [portion] portions retransmitted by [a] respective [station] stations to which [they] the members are tuned;

means for entering a response to [a] the task by individual audience members;

means at a central location for receiving the response criteria portion of a transmitted task set, said response criteria portion being synchronized with transmission of the task portion;

means for communicating [a] the response from said entering means to said receiving means at said central location; and

means at said central location for determining whether [an] the entered response is an acceptable response by comparing [an] the entered response to [an] the acceptable response.

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179. (Twice amended) A method for transmitting tasks by stations and rewarding acceptable responses entered by members of the audiences of the stations, said method comprising the steps of:

concurrently transmitting different program segments by a plurality of the stations;

by means of said stations, interrupting [their] the stations' respective programs at the same time to create a synchronized time

gap between said segments;

by means of said stations, transmitting a task during said time gap, [a] the task being followed by a transmission of response criteria defining an acceptable response to said task, said response criteria transmission being unintelligible to humans;

receiving said task by the members of said station audiences;

receiving and reading said response criteria by a response unit associated with an identified audience member, said response unit having means operable by an audience member for entering a response, and having means for comparing said response to the response criteria to identify a successful audience member having entered [an] the acceptable response; and

rewarding successful audience members.

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180. (Three times amended) A method for transmitting tasks and rewarding acceptable responses to said tasks, comprising:

providing a plurality of stations for transmitting a plurality of different programs to members of respective audiences of the stations;

formatting program contents and program structures by operators of said stations for transmission by the respective stations, a formatting of said programs providing for at least one interruption in the transmission of said programs, so as to create at least one break in the continuity of the program structures and at least one time interval between program portions of all of said stations;

synchronizing said at least one interruption so that time intervals between portions of all transmitted programs of the

stations occur at essentially the same time;

interrupting the stations transmitting said programs by said time intervals of synchronization;

receiving said programs by the members of audiences;

formatting at least one task set for transmission to members of said audiences, a task set comprising a task, [such as a question,] and accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response[, such as an answer to a task];

CFB  
COW  
providing to individual members of said audiences a response unit, said response unit comprising means for entering a response to [a] the task, means for receiving response criteria, and means for identifying an acceptable response by comparing an entered response to the response criteria;

transmitting the at least one task set to the members of said audiences, wherein the transmission of said task set occurs essentially during a time interval separating said stations' program portions;

entering [a] the response to [a] the task in a response unit by individual ones of said audience members;

identifying [an] the acceptable response; and

notifying the audience members who have entered [an] the acceptable response.

CFB  
COW  
181. (Amended) A method for conducting a sweepstakes for members of the audiences of broadcast stations, comprising the steps of:

by means of a plurality of stations, broadcasting [their] individual and disparate programs of respective ones of said stations;

mechanically, optically, or electronically conveying to said stations at least one task set for broadcasting to said stations' audiences, a task set comprising a task and instructional response criteria to determine and score acceptable responses;

selecting a time period fitting into said [station's] stations' program structure by an individual one of said stations for broadcasting [a] the task set;

C44  
cont  
in the course of said [station's] stations' program, broadcasting [a] the task set by said [station] stations during a selected time period;

receiving a program and [a] the task by the members of said audiences;

providing response units to individual audience members, said response units being associated with identified audience members and including response entering means, and means for receiving the instructional response criteria;

providing evaluation means, including means for determining an acceptable response by comparing an entered response to accompanying response criteria, and means for scoring a response by assigning a value to [an] the acceptable response;

entering [a] the response by an individual member;

determining [an] the acceptable response by a successful respondent;

scoring [an] the acceptable response;

providing a central storage facility for successful respondents' identifications and scored response results;

providing communications links between said response units and said storage facility;

communicating the successful respondents' identifications and the scored response results to said central facility for storing;

entering successful respondents and [their] scored results of the successful respondents in [a] the sweepstakes;

weighting successful respondents' entries in accordance with the scored results;

conducting [a] the sweepstakes by randomly determining winners, the probabilities of random determinations being skewed by said weighting, and

announcing sweepstakes winners.

182. (Twice amended) A method for generating large broadcast audiences comprising the steps of:

providing a first electronic signal transmitting system comprising a network of stations broadcasting program signals to members of respective remote audiences, said stations broadcasting [their] respectively individual scheduled programs, said stations being equipped to receive and retransmit quiz signals to the members of the stations' respective audiences;

providing a second electronic signal transmitting system for transmitting a qualifying quiz to network stations, a qualifying

quiz comprising at least one task and response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;

formulating at least one qualifying quiz at a central location;

transmitting said quiz to said network stations;

receiving said quiz by said network stations;

retransmitting said quiz by said network stations to the members of [their respective] the remote audiences of the respective stations at a point in time determined by individual ones of said network stations, which points in time can vary from station to station;

providing to individual members of said remote audiences response units, each response unit being associated with an identified member, the response unit being capable of receiving and storing response criteria signals, receiving a response to [a] the quiz entered by [an] the identified member of said [audience] audiences, and evaluating an entered response in accordance with said response criteria to identify winning members of said qualifying quiz;

entering [a] the response to said quiz by a member of the audience of one of said stations;

evaluating said member's response by use of a member's response unit and identifying a winner of said qualifying quiz;

providing means at [a] the central location for receiving and storing identifications of [said] winners;

conveying [winner's] identifications of said winners to said

storage means;

providing a prize event facility at [a] the central location;  
and

entering identified winners of said qualifying quiz in said prize event.

183. (Twice amended) A method for generating large broadcast audiences comprising the steps of:

combining a plurality of broadcast stations[, such as television and radio stations] into a broadcast network , said broadcast stations being from the class of stations consisting of television and radio stations;

providing a central facility for transmitting electronic signals, including task sets to said broadcast stations;

providing at said stations means to receive and to rebroadcast the electronic signals received from said central facility, said stations broadcasting [their] regularly scheduled and at least partially disparate programs to members of [their broadcast] the audiences of respective ones of said stations;

receiving said programs by the audience members;

formulating a plurality of task sets, a task set comprising a task, at least one acceptable response, and a time period allowed for responding;

providing to individual members of said [audience] audiences a response unit, [a] the response unit comprising means for entering a response to a task, means for receiving an acceptable response, means for determining acceptable responses by the

individual audience members, and means for identifying the members who have entered [an] the acceptable response;

sequentially transmitting by said central facility signals conveying [a] the plurality of task sets to said broadcast stations;

receiving the task sets by the broadcast stations;

interrupting the programs of individual ones of the broadcast stations at a convenient time, so as to create a time gap between program segments;

broadcasting during said time gap of an individual station, by means of an individual broadcast station, [a] the task and time allowed for responding and, following said allowed time, [an] the acceptable response;

receiving the station's rebroadcast task by an audience member;

entering responses to [a] the task by audience members in [their] the response units of the respective members;

determining and scoring [an] the acceptable response by a successful audience member by means of [a] the response unit;

identifying [a] the successful audience member; and

informing successful audience members.

184. (Twice amended) A method for generating large broadcast audiences comprising the steps of:

formulating at a central location at least one quiz, a quiz

CLB  
correct

CLB  
correct

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comprising a task and at least one acceptable response to said task;

providing a system comprising a network of stations broadcasting programs to members of a remote audience, said stations broadcasting their individually scheduled and disparate programs, said stations being equipped to receive and broadcast said quiz to the members of the remote audience;

transmitting the at least one quiz from [a] the central location to said network stations;

receiving said quiz by the network stations;

by means of the network stations, broadcasting said quiz to the members of said audience at a point in time determined by individual ones of said network stations, which points in time can vary between the stations, said stations broadcasting an acceptable response in coded form;

receiving said programs and the quiz by the audience members;

providing to individual members of said audience response units for receiving, decoding, and storing [an] the acceptable response, entering a response to [a] the quiz, comparing an entered response with said acceptable response, and identifying a successful member having entered said acceptable response;

entering [a] the response to [a] the quiz by [a] the member of said audience;

by means of [a] the member's response unit, identifying [a] the successful member having entered [an] acceptable response;

providing evaluation means, and providing means at [a] the

central location for receiving and storing data identifying successful members, said receiving means being operatively connected to said evaluation means;

providing a central sweepstakes facility;

*C46  
cont* conveying said data identifying successful members to said [storage] receiving and storing means;

entering successful audience members in a sweepstakes;

determining at least [on] one sweepstakes winner; and

informing said winner of said determination.

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185. (Twice amended) A method for conducting a game by a plurality of stations broadcasting programs including a task requiring a predetermined acceptable response, the method comprising the steps of:

*C47  
cont* by means of the stations, concurrently broadcasting a plurality of disparate programs to members of [the] respective audiences of the stations;

dividing individual ones of said programs into two or more program segments by the stations;

chronologically separating the broadcasting of at least two of said program segments so as to create a break in the continuity in said programs;

determining at least one time gap between two discontinuous program segments broadcast by said plurality of stations, occurrences of said gap between the programs being substantially synchronized;

a station broadcasting to [its] the station's audience members during [one of] said time gap[s] a task set comprising [a] the task and an accompanying coded acceptable response to said task;

providing to individual ones of said audience members response units associated with respective identified members, each response unit comprising means for entering a response to [a] the task, means for receiving, decoding, and storing an acceptable response, and means for evaluating a member's response to identify a successful identified member having entered [an] the acceptable response;

entering [a] the response to [a] the task by the members in [their] the response units of the respective members;

by means of said response units, evaluating responses entered by the members to identify successful members;

providing means for informing the successful members; and

informing the successful members.

186. (Twice amended) A method for attracting large broadcast audiences to stations in a network of stations by entering successful respondents to a task in a prize event, said method comprising the steps of:

forming a network composed of a multiplicity of [TV and/or radio] network stations concurrently broadcasting [their] scheduled and at least partially disparate programs, said network stations being from the class of broadcast stations consisting of television and radio stations;

each of said network stations broadcasting [its] one of said [program] programs to members of [its] the station's audience;

making a plurality of task sets available to the stations, a task set comprising at least one task, a time period allowed for responding, and an acceptable response to said task;

receiving said task sets at the network stations;

by means of a network station, selecting [a] the task set for transmission at a time fitting into the station's program structure;

C48  
cont  
a network station transmitting a selected task set to [its] the station's audience, wherein the acceptable response is transmitted following the time period allowed for responding;

receiving a task and an allowed time period by the members of the audience of [a] the network station;

providing to each audience member a response unit identified with said audience member, the response unit comprising means for receiving acceptable responses, means for entering a response to [a] the task and means for determining whether an entered response is [an] the acceptable response;

entering [a] the response to [a] the task in [a] the response unit by a respondent member of said audience;

receiving [an] the acceptable response by said response unit;

determining by the response unit whether a respondent's entered response is [an] the acceptable response;

providing a central prize event facility;

conveying the identity of respondents having acceptably responded to [a] the task to said prize event facility; and

48

entering said respondents in [a] prize event.

187. (Three times amended) A system for conducting a game for members of a broadcast audience in which a member's response to a task is evaluated in accordance with response criteria, the system comprising:

a recording of a plurality of task sets, a task set comprising [a] the task and accompanying response criteria defining at least one acceptable response;

means for sequentially transmitting recorded tasks of said plurality of task sets;

C49  
cost  
a playback facility operatively coupled with said transmitting means for playing back said task recording;

a plurality of stations broadcasting disparately structured programs to [their] the stations' respective audiences, wherein an individual one of said plurality of stations receives and selects one of said [plurality of] tasks for retransmission of the task to the audience of said individual station at a time fitting into [its] program structures, of said individual station, wherein the audience members receive a program and the task transmitted by a station to which [they] the members are tuned;

means for entering a response to [a] the task by individual audience members;

a recording of the response criteria accompanying said tasks;

means for transmitting the response criteria, including [a] the playback facility for playing back said response criteria recording;

461

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evaluating means, and means for receiving said played back response criteria, said receiving means being coupled to said evaluating means for evaluating an entered response in accordance with said response criteria to determine whether [it] the entered response is an acceptable response; and

means for informing the audience members who have entered [an] the acceptable response.

[ Claim 188, line 15, change "times" to --time--.

Claim 188, line 16, change "stations" to --the stations--.

Claim 188, line 19, change "tasks" to --the tasks--.

Claim 188, line 20, change "members" to --the members--.

Claim 188, line 23, change "accompanying" to --the accompanying--.

189. (Twice amended) A method for conducting a qualifying event and a subsequent prize event for members of broadcast audiences, comprising the steps of:

by means of transmitters of a plurality of stations, broadcasting a plurality of disparately structured programs to respective audiences of said stations;

*C50*  
*cont*  
by means of central transmitting means, sequentially transmitting a plurality of tasks in [a] the qualifying event and, following each task, chronologically spaced response criteria defining an acceptable response to each of said tasks;

receiving said tasks at said broadcast stations;

at an individual one of said stations, selecting a time for transmitting a task so as to fit into the station's program structure;

transmitting by said individual station [its] one of said

[program] programs including said task to the members of [its] the respective broadcast audience of said individual station;

receiving said station program and the task by the audience members;

responding to [a] the task by the members ;

evaluating a member's response by means associated with an identified member, and operative in accordance with the response criteria following [a] the task, to determine identified winners of the qualifying event; and

entering winners of the qualifying event in [a] the subsequent prize event.

C50  
cont 190. (Twice amended) A system for transmitting tasks and rewarding acceptable responses to said tasks, comprising:

a plurality of stations transmitting a plurality of different programs to members of at least partially different audiences;

means at each of said stations for interrupting the programs of said stations at the same time and for creating a time gap between program portions of said stations;

means for transmitting to said audiences a task and, following said task transmission, acceptable responses to [a] the task in a form unintelligible to humans;

means at locations of the audience members for receiving said program portions and the tasks;

means associated with identified audience members for entering a response to [a] the task, for receiving and reading the

*CSO*  
*cancel*  
acceptable responses, and for comparing an entered response to an acceptable response, so as to identify successful audience members having entered [an] the acceptable response, and to enable rewarding successful audience members.

[ Claim 191, line 4, change "stations" to --the stations--.

Claim 191, line 10, change "a task" to --the task--.

Claim 191, line 21, after "to" (first occurrence) insert --the --.

Claim 191, line 23, change "an" to --the--.

Please enter the following additional claims.

192. A method according to any one of Claims 66, and 76 wherein the task set comprises a plurality of tasks, the method further comprising a step of erasing the response criteria in accordance with programming signals received from a central location, and wherein all of the tasks of said task set differ, and the program structures of the stations differ.

*CSO*  
*cancel*  
193. A method according to any one of Claims 64 and 67, wherein the stations receive the task and response evaluation criteria, further comprising a step of:

transmitting the task by the broadcast stations to their broadcast station's audiences and transmitting, by the broadcast stations, the response evaluation criteria to said central facility, wherein there is more than one acceptable response to the task, the acceptable response is further rewarded with a prize printed on a hard copy record such as a monetary coupon, and the broadcast stations include radio stations and over the air and cable TV stations.

194. A method according to Claim 62 wherein said step of informing of audience members is done through broadcasting, or is done visually or audibly by a member's response means.



195. A method according to Claim 62 further comprising a step of rewarding an audience member having entered an acceptable response to a question, in addition to an entry into the sweepstakes, with a prize or a printout, or a monetary coupon, generated at the location of audience member entering the acceptable response.

196. A method according to Claim 55 further comprising steps of receiving the response criteria at a central evaluation hub, and evaluating responses of the audience members at said hub in accordance with said response criteria.

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197. A method according to any one of Claims 62 and 66 wherein said central facility is a central telephone facility, the method further comprising a step of electronically debiting participating ones of the audience members with amounts charged for use of said central facility and crediting participating individual ones of the audience members who have been awarded a monetary prize for acceptable responses.

198. A system according to ~~any one of~~ Claim 83 wherein said receiving means and said entering means share a common touch-sensitive display screen which serves for presentation of data and for entering the response.

199. A system according to Claim 83 further comprising means coupled to said entering means and responsive to signals of said response criteria for limiting participants to a predetermined period of time for entering the response.

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REMARKS

In the Official Action, numerous ones of the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for reasons set forth in the Action. Numerous suggestions were